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SUBJECT Soviet Army Training, Pay and Discipline

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SOURCE

[Redacted Source Information]

Garrison Training

1. The following is the approximate schedule used when I took
Basic Training and Guard Training.

0600 Reveille
0600-0750 Physical culture (Gymnastics), inspection,
barracks clean-up, political lecture (lectures
on Communism, Benefit of the Five Year Plans,
American re-armament for War, Russian Leadership)
0800-0830 Breakfast (tea, bread, some soup or cooked cereal)
0830-1400 Familiarization of weapons, nomenclature,
disassembling and assembling of weapons (PPSh),
preliminary rifle instruction, field observation,
range estimation, etc
1400-1430 Dinner (piece of meat or fish, tea, bread, soup
or cooked cereal)
1430-1600 Care and maintenance of weapons and equipment
1600-1730 Instructions on tactics, guard duty, etc

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-2-

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1730-1950 Care and maintenance of weapons and equipment and clean-up of barracks and personal clean-up. Soldier could also write a letter during this time

2000-2030 Supper (same as breakfast)

2030-2250 Political and Military lectures. During this time a Russian movie was usually scheduled (Chapayev, Alexander Nevsky, Battle for Leningrad, etc)

2300 Taps

2. I was on the firing range twice [redacted] On each occasion I was given nine rounds to fire with the PPSH. There is a "U" sight on the PPSH for 100 and 200 m firing ranges. The firing range was 150-m long. The target was an unringed, unscored silhouette of the head and shoulders of a man (approximately 1 x 1 m). If the soldier hit the silhouette with five out of the nine shots, he received an excellent rating. Below five, he was unqualified. Not qualifying did not bring additional disciplinary action, but the instructor then had to give additional instruction to such a soldier. I have never qualified.
3. Until late 1949, radios were permitted in barracks and the Voice of America was listened to secretly. [redacted] no radios have been allowed. All special announcements and short talks were presented over a loud speaker system.

Pay

4. [redacted], and the other pvts in my unit, were paid 60 Marks per month; sergeants received 90 Marks per month. As of [redacted] pvts were paid only 30 Marks per month and sergeants 60 Marks per month. No explanation for the decrease in pay was given to us.

Discipline

5. Two orders were issued [redacted]. Officers and EM were forbidden to drink together. Fraternization with Germans (German females) was forbidden. Soldiers were told only that punishments were severe for getting drunk, for drinking, and/or fraternizing with Germans.

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